



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS Reminds Dealers Importing/Exporting HMS of New Permit Requirements Effective July 1, 2005.

**Covered Species: Bluefin tuna, Swordfish, Southern Bluefin tuna and
frozen Bigeye tuna.**

Effective July 1, 2005, all dealers importing, exporting, or re-exporting the above named species must hold a Highly Migratory Species International Trade Permit (HMS ITP) and follow the required reporting procedures established at 50 C.F.R. 300.183 through 300.187. The HMS ITP is required to assist the United States implement international trade tracking programs addressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities, improve conservation and management measures, and enhance the scientific evaluation of these stocks.

Under international agreements and domestic law, the United States implements recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Both IATTC and ICCAT have implemented a statistical document program for frozen bigeye tuna. In addition, ICCAT has implemented bluefin tuna and swordfish statistical document programs.

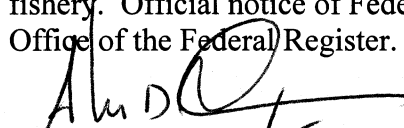
Dealers currently holding the Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit, Pacific Bluefin Tuna Dealer Permit, and/or Swordfish Dealer Permit must now obtain the HMS ITP in order to legally import or export the covered species listed above. After July 1, 2005 the Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit and Swordfish Dealer Permit will only cover domestic purchases of these species (from vessels). The Pacific Bluefin Tuna Dealer Permit will no longer be issued.

To obtain an HMS ITP, submit a completed application to the following address:

NMFS Permit Team
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Ave., South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Permit applications and further information may be obtained from the website: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ under the link "International Trade;" by writing to the above address, or calling 727/824-5326. Specific information regarding reporting requirements will be distributed to new permit holders and posted on the above website.

This notice is a courtesy to HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register.


John H. Dunnigan, Director
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

JUN - 3 2005

Date



Printed on Recycled Paper

